

Reply to Final Office of March 31, 2006
Amendment Dated: May 15, 2006

Appl. No.: 10/614,611
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-033/7051

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were examined in the outstanding final office action mailed on 03/31/2006 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 6, 16, 26 and 36 were indicated to be allowable. The remaining claims were rejected.

5 By virtue of this response, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 11, 12, 14, 16-18, 21, 22, 24, 26-28, 31, 32, 34, and 36-38 are sought to be amended, and new claims 41-43 are sought to be added. The amendments and additions are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-43 are thus respectfully presented for reconsideration.

10 *Telephone Interview With Examiner*

A telephone interview was conducted on May 15 2006, with only Examiner Tran and the undersigned representative attending. Claim 1, as sought to be amended, was discussed and agreement appears to have been reached that amended claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. The undersigned representative noted that the amendment to claim 1 is supported
15 at least by Figure 3 and corresponding description in the specification. The undersigned representative agreed to send a formal response.

The applicant is believed to have met the burden of making of record the Substance of the Interview. The Examiner is also requested to send a duly completed Examiner Interview Summary form PTOL-413 if one has not been sent already. See MPEP 713.04 for
20 further details.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zanaty (6,741,685) in view of Kaplan et al (6,829,234). The rejection is believed to be rendered moot by the foregoing amendments.

25 Each of the amended independent claims 1, 11, 21, and 31 recites the feature of counting a traffic volume from or to each of time point within an SSG and sending the accounting records from the SSG. Such a feature is not disclosed or reasonably suggested

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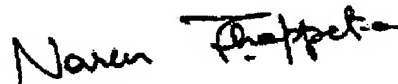
by the art of record. Accordingly, all the independent claims, at least as sought to be amended, are allowable over the art of record.

The dependent claims 2-10, 12-20, 22-30 and 32-43 are all allowable at least as depending from an allowable base claim.

- 5 Dependent claims 41 and 43 are independently allowable in that the SSG is expressly recited as operating as a switch, which provides the accounting records of claim 1.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: May 15, 2006

Narendra Reddy Thappeta
Attorney for Applicant
Registration Number: 41,416